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Input to the California Resources Agency.

The natural retreat philosophy allowing the ocean to take over the shore is never a practical solution because a line is always drawn somewhere. Eventually the ocean reaches structures that everyone wants protected. At that time a lot more effort and cost are involved in constructing barriers which are more massive and unnatural looking.

Prevention is a much more practical approach. The first preventative measure should be beach replenishment to prevent further beach and bluff erosion. However, where the sand has already been lost and the ocean has reached the base of the bluff, this base must be reinforced to prevent it from being undercut leading to collapse of the remaining base which increases the angle of the bluff above making it unstable.

The inability to do this simple act of filling in this undercut base with minimal reinforcement has led to many areas of total bluff failure necessitating larger and larger walls. This has often happened because permits are usually only given when bluff top homes are in danger of falling into a collapsed bluff. At this point building a wall is a constitutional right.

This approach is not prevention it is irrational behavior. Nobody wants a big wall in front of their bluff top home unless it is the only way to save their home. They would much rather have a small reinforcement at the base. The people who oppose walls should prefer this approach also.

Preventive measures are smaller, more natural looking, less expensive and very effective.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Lucker DDS
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